13 [361] 5. NAMUKA-I-LAU lies about 8 miles N.W. of the Yangasa Cluster. (Village: S.18° 51', 178° 58' W.)It is rectangular in shape, a little over 4 miles long by 1 broad, and composed of coral limestone. A barrier reef, reduced to a chain of coral heads on the N.W., surrounds the island. On the north side of the island a rough ridge of upraised coral limestone rises abruptly from the sea to a height of 260 feet, and on the S.W. there is a short ridge up to 240 feet high. [361] The village is located on a large bay facing the south, and another sandy bay is located at the west end. Each contains two small islets. The interior is a flat covered with extensive groves of coconut palms and cultivated areas. Along the ridges and at each end is lowland forest. There is a small marsh near the village.

The south bay is shallow and inaccessable. Good anchorage may be had within the reef off the north side. A trail leads over the [487] ridge from a landing situated half way between the highest peak (260') and a more conspicuous double peak (210'), near a coconut grove.

[312] Rainwater is caught and stored at the village.

No land snakes, but water snakes are to be found occasionally on the rough coral beaches. Rats, hermit crabs and lizards are present. Mosquitoes and dragonflies ~~xxxxxxx~~ numerous.

361 161 The village is of moderate size, with over 50 houses and a population of about 216. The inhabitants are industrious and prosperous 181 295 241 177 cutting a large amount of copra and farming extensive cultivated areas. There is a Chinese store. There is considerable beating of masi (tapa), but very little carving.

287 327 366

[ONEATA I]

361 certainly more than the reported 25 houses. Nakuiloa is much smaller,
[61] with 21 houses and 85 people. There is a store at each village,
366 Chinese at Wainggori, Japanese at Nakuiloa. The people seemed
197 friendly, courteous, generous and sincerely religious. There was a
181 noticeable Tongan element.
194

Quite a little agriculture is carried on by the natives, good
241 corn (maize) being raised in addition to the usual sweet potatoes,
yams, manioc, taro, bananas, and pumpkins. The people are prosper-
181 ous and industrious. Some little mat weaving, masi (tapa) beating,
285 and wood carving is done.
287
322

[p.29]

13 15. LAKEMBA is a large volcanic island located at approximately the center of Lau, (18° 12' S., 178° 47' W.). It is nearly oval in outline, 5 1/2 miles east and west by 3 1/2 miles north and south, with a wooded limestone point extending south another mile from the center of the south side. The interior is high, rounded and grassy, with numerous radiating valleys, and several peaks, all of about the same height, up to 720 feet elevation. At the N.W. end there is a conspicuous, wooded, flat-topped peak of upraised coral limestone, rising percipitously to a height of about 400 feet.

There is a well situated harbor for small craft on the S.W. side, off the village of Tumbou. It is difficult of access, thru a 50 yard entrance, because of the tide rip. Larger vessels can find anchorage within the lagoon formed by the barrier reef which extends several miles to the eastward, there being an entrance on the south-east. The island is surrounded by a fringing reef. There is an anchorage outside the reef off the west end, with an off-shore wind. On the north side the reef dries at about a quarter tide, forming a broad mud flat.

[312] Water is abundant and fairly accessable. There is a stream in every valley, and also a convenient pool on the beach near the west end anchorage, behind which rises an elevated limestone bluff. Supplies [366] may be obtained both at Tumbou and at a store near this west end pool.

The hills are covered with reed (or nasau grass), Pandanus, scrub, [241] and Casuarina trees. The valleys are fertile with extensive cultivated patches. A continuous line of coconut groves, together with other beach plants, fringe the shore. The limestone areas are well forested and on the east side, along the shore of the lagoon, there are extensive mangrove thickets.

Small animals and insects as on other islands of the group. The mosquitoes were abundant and troublesome. Quite a variety of bird life.

361 161 [491] Lakemba has seven native villages, Tumbou being the largest one in Lau, with a population of 285. The others in order as one goes counter-clockwise along the well kept connecting road are:- Wathiwathi, on the east side of the south-jutting peninsula, 130 natives; Waitambu, three quarters of a mile to the east, 76 inhabitants; Nukunuku at the S.E. corner of the island, at the head of a small bay, 70 natives; Yandrana, along the banks of a fair size stream, at the N.E. corner, 187 inhabitants; Vakano, about 2 miles to the N.W., 70 natives; and Nasanggalau, with 150 inhabitants, about a mile to the westward at the mouth of the next stream. The west end of the island, opposite the 423 366 177 Wankatalatha anchorage, is privately owned. There is a small store, run by Chinese in nearly every village, and a large store run by the Lau Traders, Ltd., at Tumbou.

181 439 295 241 287 The inhabitants are thrifty, intelligent and industrious, drying and exporting a large quantity of copra. There are extensive cultivated areas containing yams, sweet potatoes, etc., in the valleys. Considerable masi (tapa) is made.

797 Lakemba was the first island in Fiji to be Christianized by British Missionaries (1853). The Provincial School, to which boys 871 from all over Lau are sent, is situated near Tumbou.

[p. 43]

13 22. KALAU is a high limestone and volcanic island, 16 miles N.W.of Lakemba and 20 miles S.W.of Tuvutha'. (S.17° 58', 179° 04' W.) The island is 3 1/2 miles long by 2 miles wide, and is surrounded by a fringing reef. The high marginal ridge of upraised coral limestone, which rises percipitously on the north to 580 feet elevation, surrounds a dry central volcanic basin, carpeted with grass, scrub and Pandanus. The ridges are well forested.

There is no anchorage for vessels, but boats can cross the reef opposite the village of Salia on the east side, and also on the N.W. side, at high water.

312 Water is not abundant, but may be had at the villages, together with limited supplies of staple groceries and vegetables.

361 There are three villages on the island. Salia on the east side
[366] has a native population of 140 and two chinese stores. Narothivo
177 is located about a mile and a quarter to the N.N.W. and has 117
[161] people. Liku, with 59 natives is on the south-east side. There is no landing at Liku, and all supplies and copra has to be carried
487 by trail over the ridges and across the central basin. Gaps in the
13 limestone ridges on each side, with gradual slopes of volcanic material leading up to them, make this trail more accessable than
181 that on Tuvutha'. The people appear to be prosperous and produce
245 quite a little copra from the extensive coconut groves.

172 On the high ridge S.W. of Salia there is the site of an
361 ancient fortified village, perched at the top of a cliff.
712

[p.56]

13 84. THITHIA (pronounced thē-thē-ā) is a moderately large, nearly circular island of volcanic and limestone formation, 17 miles N.W. of Naisu and about the same distance S.S.W. of Mango. The island is about 4 miles in diameter, with the interior undulating grassland, rising in several peaks to a height of over 500 feet. Delana Bo, east of the center of the island, is said to be the highest point, but two peaks on the west marginal ridge are as high or higher. As usual, the ridges of upraised coral limestone are marginal, but here they are somewhat reduced in extent, there being also volcanic ridges [312] on the south, west and north sides. A moderately large stream, flowing to the N.E., drains the central portion, and there are numerous smaller streams. Good water is plentiful.

The island is surrounded by a fringing reef, 300 to 800 yards wide. There is a good anchorage off the village of Tarukua, at the N.W. point, with the prevailing S.E. to E. winds. Here landing is good at any time of the tide. There is also a temporary anchorage off Tambuta Plantation, a mile to the south. There is a small break in the reef opposite 60 yards wide the village of Lomati, but as there is very little protection from the prevailing wind, vessels seldom anchor here.

Snakes are ~~said~~ said to be abundant. There are numerous lizards and land crabs. Besides the usual land birds, introduced mynahs and "magpies" are abundant.

There are several caves in the N.E. cliffs, some containing bats, [135] and one said to have a deposit of low grade phosphate.

361 [161] Thithia is one of the most advanced and prosperous islands of Lau. There are five villages with a combined population of over 400. [622] The residence of the Buli[1] is at Tarukua, at the N.W. end, which has 75 [161] natives and a small Chinese store. The district hospital, with a [366] native practitioner in charge, is located here. Mambula', at the S.W. 1107 [143] [759]

1 [Buli or chief -- analyst]

[p.60]

[THITHIA I.]

361 [161] [366] [177] is the largest village, with 123 residents and a Chinese store. Matheva is a small village on the S.E., with 40 natives, and also has a little store. Matokalau, on the east side has 65 residents.

361 361 [205] [242] [466] Lomati, on the N.E., at the mouth of the large stream, is a prosperous village with 113 residents and a large Chinese store. Mr. C.B.Crabbe, coconut planter and postmaster, who lives here, also keeps a store, mainly for the convenience of his workmen.

423 Two sections of the island, Tambuta on the west side and Vakindranu on the east, are privately owned by the Borron Estate, under the management of Mr. E.J.Brodnam, who is

245 interested in tropical agriculture and natural history. Here extensive groves of coconuts have been set out and much copra is produced.

[p.61]

13 27. VANUA MBALAVU I. is situated at the western side of the lagoon containing the Exploring Isles. (S.17° 10' to S.17° 20', and 178° 55' to 179° 04' W.) It is 14 miles long and up to 2 1/2 miles wide, with several peaks along its backbone. The N.W.portion, including Ngillangilla I. (510'), which is separated from the main island by a narrow channel, is composed of upraised coral limestone. This continues to be the dominant material south and eastward as far as the two deep bays on the N.E.. On the east side of these the forested limestone cliffs are abruptly replaced by rounded grassy hills. These continue until close to the south end ~~&hh~~ which is a narrow limestone ridge. The small islets to the N.W. are limestone. Yanu Yanu, on the S.E. is of volcanic material. The highest peak, Koro Mbasabga (930) and the summits of one or two other peaks of volcanic material are covered with an open growth of forest, similar to that on the high volcanic islands of Matuku, Moala, and Totoya.

361 [423] All of the villages, about 14 in number, are located in the volcanic portion of the island. Nambavatu, in the N.W., is a private estate. Several of the villages were not visited during our short stay, but their populations are tabulated under the Census of Lau.

[648] [344] [368] [171] [563] Lomaloma, with the residence of the District Commissioner, the courthouse, a large native church and ~~&hh~~ a few European homes, is situated toward the S.E. end of the island. The northern half of the village (Lomaloma) is Fijian; the southern half (called Sawana) is Tongan, with a separate Buli (chief) and its own city government. The two parts have a combined population of 272. The harbor is well [13] protected, on the east by the islet of Yanu Yanu, and on the N. and S. by outjutting reefs, leaving a small natural basin. In former times [366] Lomaloma was a a large and commercially important place, with several [439] hotels and stores. To it came the old sailing vessels from all parts of the world after copra and native produce from all Lau. But with

[VANUA MBALAVU I.]

361 the establishment of a good stable government in the western part of
[505] Fiji, and cutter service between the various islands and Levuka and Suva, most of its prosperity has vanished.

Another large village is Mualevu, at the east foot of Koro Mbasanga.
[366] This village has a good store and an abundant water supply, piped
[312] down from the adjacent valley, which contains the only real stream seen
[161] on the island. The population is given as 196. All the villages are
[487] connected by good trails.

241 The island is not as extensively cultivated as it might be. There are small areas of native food stuffs planted in the valleys and on the lower slopes behind the various villages. And the flats are occupied
13 by small groves of coconut palms. But most of the limestone region remains in native forest, and much of the grassy volcanic ridge is left in that state.

[312] Water is not very abundant, but may be obtained at the villages,
[366] especially Mualevu. Supplies may be secured there and at Lomaloma.

Anchorage is good in many of the bays, besides at Lomaloma, and landing is possible anywhere in the volcanic region and in many of the limestone bays. The limestone country is extremely rough and uninviting, but pockets may be made to support groves of coconuts, as at Nambavatu.

The "Bay of Islands", south-east of Ngillangilla, contains one long low island and several small islets. Here anchorage is good. Andawathi I. (250') and Yamuthaloa I. (160') lie to the S.S.E. of this bay.

[312] There is a hot spring near the gap between the volcanic and limestone formations at the south end.

[p. 69]